

Contents

Welcome to Issue 226

Highlights

08 Lost Arc

After all the hype, Richard Swinburne is disappointed by the no-show of Intel's Arc desktop graphics cards.

10 Preserving Ukraine's digital heritage

Tracy King looks at ways people are helping to backup Ukraine's digital culture and history.

14 Intel Core i9-12900KS

Clocked to 5.5GHz, Intel's new flagship CPU has arrived but can it take the performance crown?

16 AMD Ryzen 7 5800X3D

Sporting its much-hyped 64MB of 3D-stacked L3 cache, AMD's latest CPU is aimed squarely at improving gaming performance.

19 Nvidia GeForce RTX 3090 Ti

The flagship of Nvidia's 3000 series is here, but can it justify its sky-high asking price?

28 Acer 170Hz gaming monitor

With its dazzlingly wide colour gamut and 170Hz refresh rate, Acer's latest 27in IPS panel has plenty going for it.

30 Creative T60 speakers

Creative's latest desktop speaker set offers a host of useful features, such as USB and Bluetooth connections, all for under £60.

32 NZXT keyboard

NZXT has entered the peripherals market and its first keyboard offers hot-swappable key switches.



48 240mm AIO liquid coolers

Antony Leather puts seven of the latest 240mm AIO coolers through their paces.

58 Wi-Fi 6 mesh routers

Get wide and reliable Wi-Fi coverage without breaking the bank. Edward Chester puts five of the latest mesh router systems to the test.

71 Tunic

Blending the look and feel of Zelda with the brutality of Dark Souls makes for an intriguing combination.

78 Build a 4K Gaming PC

Learn how to put together a dazzling 4K-capable gaming PC based on the excitingly 'now actually available' GeForce RTX 3080 Ti.

88 PC audio explained

Learn all you need to know about getting the best audio from your PC.

94 Hobby tech

Gareth Halfacree checks out a swish aluminium case for the Raspberry Pi 4, along with the watch-sized RoundyPi and RoundyFi circular displays.

102 Make a custom stats display

Learn how to fit a customisable stats screen to your PC, so you can see information such as temperatures and fan speeds right there on your system's case.

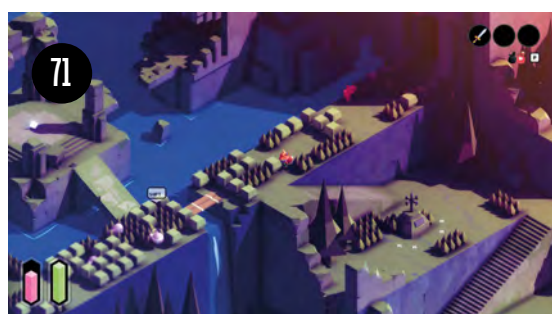
107 Retro tech - Windows 3.1 turns 30

Stuart Andrews looks back at the arrival of screensavers, colourful icons and proper fonts in the early 1990s with Windows 3.1.

110 Readers' drives

Nick Falzone guides us through the creation of his stunning wooden scratch-built PC.

Cover guide



Regulars

- 3 From the editor
- 8 Richard Swinburne
- 10 Tracy King
- 12 Incoming
- 42 Custom kit
- 44 How we test
- 64 Elite products
- 70 Inverse look
- 76 Reality check
- 94 Hobby tech
- 99 For the win
- 100 Customised PC
- 102 How to guides
- 107 Retro tech
- 110 Readers' drives
- 114 James Gorbald



Reviewed

38
PRODUCTS
REVIEWED

PROCESSORS

- 14 Intel Core i9-12900KS
- 16 AMD Ryzen 5800X3D

GRAPHICS CARDS

- 19 Nvidia GeForce RTX 3090 Ti

CASES

- 22 SaharaGaming P44M

MEMORY

- 26 Thermaltake Toughram RC DDR5

MONITORS

- 28 Acer Predator XB273UNV
- 29 MSI Optix MPG321QRF-QD

SPEAKERS

- 30 Creative T60

KEYBOARDS

- 32 NZXT Function MiniTKL

MICE

- 33 NZXT Lift

LAPTOPS

- 34 Alienware x14

PC SYSTEMS

- 36 Scan 3XS Torrent Ti
- 38 CyberPower Infinity X125 VR
- 40 Chillblast Fusion Torrent Mini

Custom kit

- 42 Mobvoi Earbuds ANC
- 42 Rii USB Mouse Jiggler
- 43 Corsair iCUE LC100 Lighting Panels
- 43 Auskang Power Bank

240mm AIO liquid cooler Labs

- 49 ARCTIC Liquid Freezer II 240 RGB
- 50 Corsair H100i Elite Capellix
- 51 EK EK-AIO 240 Basic
- 52 Lian Li Galahad SL240
- 53 NZXT Kraken Z53 RGB
- 54 Phanteks Glacier One 240 T30
- 56 Sapphire Nitro S240

Wi-Fi 6 mesh router Labs

- 59 Asus ZenWiFi AX Hybrid XP4
- 60 Linksys Velop MX8400
- 61 Netgear Nighthawk Mesh MK63
- 62 Netgear Orbi RBK752
- 63 TP-Link Deco X50

Games

- 71 Tunic
- 72 Total War: Warhammer III
- 74 Shadow Warrior 3
- 75 Lost Ark
- 77 Wanderer

Hobby tech

- 94 Argon Eon
- 96 RoundyPi and RoundyFi
- 98 The Colouring Book of Retro Computers